REMARKS

Claims 1 - 19 are currently pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1 – 13, and 15 are amended and claims 16 - 19 are added for the Examiner's consideration. Support for the amendment(s) and added claims 16 - 19 is provided in at least Figures 5 - 7 and at pages 19 - 21 of the present specification. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Objection to Drawings

The drawings were objected to because reference numeral 406, referred to on page 6, line 10, is not in Figure 4 of the drawing. By this amendment, original Figure 4 is replaced with Figure 4 on the attached replacement sheet. Figure 4 of the replacement sheet includes reference numeral 406 as shown on the replacement sheet. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the drawing objection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph for indefiniteness for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this amendment, claims 11 and 12 are amended. In particular, claims 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from claim 10 to provide proper antecedent basis for the features of the claims 11 and 12.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

I. Claims 1, 2, 8 - 13 and 15

Claims 1, 2, 8 - 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,131,116 issued to Riggins, et al. ("Riggins") in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,233,534 issued to Butts, et al. ("Butts"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A. The Invention

The present invention relates to the transmission of systems network architecture information through a Internet protocol network. More particularly, the invention relates to a method and system for users to locally select target applications located at a remote location and to access these target applications at their remote locations through a preferred Telnet 3270 client.

In embodiments, a method for selecting an application and launching a client in an Internet protocol (IP) network is provided. The method comprises the step of downloading a kernel applet from a kernel applet repository. The kernel applet accesses an application selection processor repository, a selection screen repository, and one or more client repositories. By the kernel applet, an application selection processor from the application selection processor repository is downloaded and a selection screen from the selection screen repository is downloaded for locally selecting an application. That is, both a selection screen and an application processor are downloaded to the local computer via an applet from another repository. This allows locally selecting an application by the application selection processor and the selection screens, all via applet direction. Further included in the embodiment is downloading, by the kernel applet, a client applet or a client flat file containing necessary access parameters from a client repository for accessing the selecting application, launching the client within the workstation, and accessing the selected application using the client.

By use of the invention, the kernel applet will provide address information for downloading the application selection processor and selection screen, in a most updated configuration from the remote repository. The application selection processor and selection screen, in turn, will provide updated information for accessing and downloading client applications in another remote repository. In this manner, most updated and complete versions of client applications can be easily and assuredly accessed, locally.

Referring to Figure 5, the application selection processor and the selection screen downloading processor may include the kernel applet gathering information about the local workstation, and accessing web server(s) repositories for application selection. The kernel applet checks whether the latest versions are available within the user workstation. If the latest versions are available within the user workstation, the kernel applet proceeds to a client downloading process. If the latest versions are not available within the user workstation, the kernel applet downloads the latest version(s). The kernel applet will also determine if an application is ever resident in the local computer. If not, then the application can be downloaded for the first time.

B. Riggins

Riggins is directed to a system and method for globally accessing computer services, including a communications engine for establishing a communications link with a server, a browser coupled to the communications engine for receiving applet information corresponding to a service from the server, and an applet engine for using the applet information to control user interface I/O of the service.

However, Riggins does not show or teach an application selection processor or a selection screen, for example, downloadable from a remote repository. Nor does Riggins show or teach providing a method for downloading a set of applications, which are resident on remote servers to a local computer in order to gain access to these applications, via an applet. That is , Riggins does not show downloading an applet which, in turn, is used to obtain an application selection processor and a selection screen. The application selection processor and selection

screen are then, in turn, used to obtain the most recent application from a remote server by having the application selection screen direct the user to the known applications on the remote servers. The selection screen and the application selection processor of the invention show icons by which the user may select applications to be downloaded from on-demand or resident client repositories.

Instead Riggins shows a web based system in which the user must manually type a URL to gain access to a web page. This web page then provides access to applications on the same web server. More specifically, Riggins shows a remote client 150, an input device 220, and an output device 230 connected to a communications interface 250. Riggins also shows a remote client 150 which has downloaded applets 294, and a master server 130 which has downloadable applets 136. Referring to Figure 4, a local client 400 is provided with a service engine 490. The service engine 490 includes a service interface 482, a service processor 484, and service data 486.

The method of Riggins shows establishing a communication link between the client and the server. This communication link allows the client to receive applet information from the server in order to establish a communication link between the client and a service using the applet information. However, Riggins does not show an application selection processor or a selection screen as used in the claimed invention. Instead, the method merely shows accessing a server by a web page (e.g. manually typing a URL) which has applet information. The applet is used to access a service on the same server.

The master server can include configuration data which the remote client, 150, can download to gain access to the desired service and configure the functionality, look and feel of the web browser (which was downloaded to the client ,150). But, this configuration data includes operation systems setting such as TCP protocol in the domain name server, user preference, book marks, services, service addresses, and the like. (Col. 3, lns 29-35). Each user can upload this configuration data to the master server in order to obtain similar look,

functionality and feel from any web browser. This configuration data, which includes services, is defined at column 5, lines 50-58 as:

> Services 396 include a list of registered users and each user's desired services 396, which specify each set of users downloaded applets 294. Configuration data 137 further includes service addresses 398, specifying the location of each of the service's 396 accessible via the master server 130.

However, these services are not the same as the application selection processor or the selection screen which provides access to the remote service servers for downloading an application. In fact, no where in Riggins does it mention downloading an applet which, in turn, is used to obtain an application selection processor and a selection screen which, in turn, is used to obtain the most recent application from a remote server.

Instead, the master server of Riggins simply includes an applet engine which has applet information. This applet information is then used to obtain configuration data and the application, itself, from the web server. That is, Riggins merely shows the use of a web server in order to gain access directly to the application, itself. However, Riggins is not showing nor does it remotely even teach the use of obtaining applet information, downloading such information onto a client computer and then using such information in order to obtain an application selection processor and a selection screen. Riggins then, of course, does not show utilizing the application selection processor and a selection screen in order to obtain an application from another remote repository. Riggins shows using a single server which has resident on it an application configuration and applet(s) in order to obtain such application information.

As to the Examiner's remarks, the Examiner is of the opinion that the Riggins reference shows configuration data including necessary access parameters for accessing a selection application and a means for locally selecting an application by means of an application screen and an application selection processor (column 6, lines 25 – 31). However, column 6, lines 25 – 31 specifically mentions use of a graphical user interface of a URL addressable hypertext markup language based web page as maintained by the web based engine of the master server. The graphical user interface includes a title, and a listing of the provided services and a pointer for selecting one of the provided services. But this is not an application selection processor nor

does this passage teach downloading an application selection processor or an access screen via an applet as disclosed and claimed in the present invention.

In fact, as referred to at column 3, lines 49 - 55, the remote client user inputs a predetermined URL address for opening the web page managed by the web page engine of the master server. There is no use of an applet which provides such information as a processor screen as claimed in the present invention. In fact, as shown by line 2, the web page engine only sends at least one of the applets in web browser configuration data to the web browser after the user inputs the predetermined URL address for opening the web page. This is a manual process; whereas, in the claimed invention an applet automatically downloads an application selection processor and a selection screen from a separate repository in order to provide application service information via the selection screen and application selection processor from another repository.

To further confirm Applicants' position, Figure 9 of Riggins shows a flow chart illustrating service access to a remote client server. Service access is provided by loading a service engine into the RAM of the remote client server, 910, and executing the service engine, 920. Next, display data and I/O requests as responsive data is sent to the remote client, 930, and an instruction from the remote client is received. The instruction is processed, and steps 920 - 960 are repeated until a termination instruction is received. But, again, Riggins does not have an application selection processor nor an application selection processor repository, and thus does not disclose nor suggest the method of a workstation system of the claimed invention, including downloading by means of a kernel applet an application processor from an application selection processor from a repository, as set forth in claim 1.

Butts is cited for showing an applet provided to a user in an Internet protocol network, which accesses applications in networks of varying protocol. However, Butts shows a computer network system allowing connection of a client system to a legacy host system using a server. The system of Butts includes a computer-implemented terminal session emulator for providing browser-based access to legacy host applications. In Figure 2 of Butts, an applet process is executed at step 56, and the applet process connects to a client thread and the client thread connects to a legacy host system. Step 60 includes communicating between the client thread and

the applet process across a persistent TCP/IP socket connection. Column 3 lines 25 – 28 of Butts notes that the client thread and applet process allow a user of client systems to use a web browser to invoke a terminal session for accessing data and applications on a legacy host system. As such, the system of Butts provides an interface to legacy data flows (col. 5, lns 18), and terminal emulation is provided by applet executable code downloaded from the web/emulation server (col. 5, lns 22 – 24). This is clearly distinguishable from the kernel applet used in the present invention which includes a kernel applet which is downloaded from a repository, and which then checks for and updates an application selection processor and selections screen, if necessary, and then runs them. Specifically, the applet of Butts assists in terminal emulation, and provides no checking and updating utility, nor does Butts download a application selection processor and selection screen. Furthermore, Butts does not provide an application selection processor repository nor a selection screen repository, not does Butts provide an applet for accessing such repositories.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claims 1 and 15 are allowable over the combination of Riggins and Butts. Claims 2 and 8 - 13 are allowable over the combination of Riggins and Butts at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1 from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Applicants thus request that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 8 - 13 and 15 be withdrawn.

II Claims 3 - 7, and 14

Claims 3 - 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) for being unpatentable over Riggins in view of Butts and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,732,275 to Kullick, et al. ("Kullick"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 1 is in allowable condition. Consequently, claims 3 - 7, and 14 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Applicants also submit that the combination of Riggins, Butts and Kullick fail to disclose or suggest downloading a kernel applet and determining whether a kernel applet is locally

available or not. This combination of references also do not show where, if the kernel applet is not locally available, downloading the kernel applet from a kernel applet repository, and if the kernel applet is locally available determining, if the local kernel applet and the kernel applet in a kernel applet repository are the same or not (claim 3). These similar method steps are also applicable to the application selection processor (claim 4), the selection screen (claim 5), the on-demand client (claim 6), and an on-demand flat file (claim 7).

Kullick is cited for a means for determining whether multiple versions of an application are resident, means for attempting to locate the newest version of an application and download it from a shared memory area (repository) to the client computer if the application is not locally available. Kullick is also cited for showing means for checking the repository for determining whether an upgrade is present if the application is locally available, and means for downloading a copy of the most recent version of the application to the client computer if the version of the application stored in shared memory is more recent then the version stored locally.

Applicants agree that Kullick shows a method for updating versions of an application which are already present on a system. That is, Kullick discloses determining whether a most recent version of an applet is resident on the computer. If not, then the application is updated, via a remote connection. However, Kullick never contemplates checking whether an application is actually resident on a computer; that is, Kullick does not show checking or determining whether a new application, otherwise not present on the computer, should be downloaded onto the computer via a connection to a remote computer. This is clearly distinguishable from the claimed invention. In contrast to Kullick, the claims specifically recite checking whether an application (e.g., selection screen application selection processor, on-demand file, flat file) is resident on a computer. This would not be contemplated by Kullick which only shows updating, if needed, an application which is already resident on the computer.

Thus, Kullick fails to cure at least the deficiencies noted above of the combination of Riggins and Butts, and claims 3 – 7 are also allowable for at least this reason. Applicants thus respectfully request that the rejection of claims 3 - 7, and 14 be withdrawn.

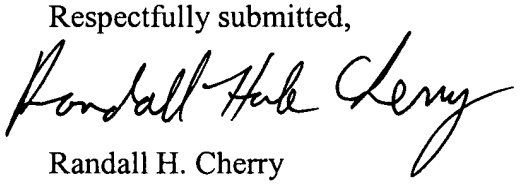
New Claims

By this amendment, new claims 16 - 19 are added. New claims 16 - 19 depend from independent claim 15, and include further distinguishing features. Accordingly, new claims 16 - 19 are in allowable condition. Prompt examination and allowance in due course are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 09-0457.

Respectfully submitted,



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REPLACEMENT SHEET

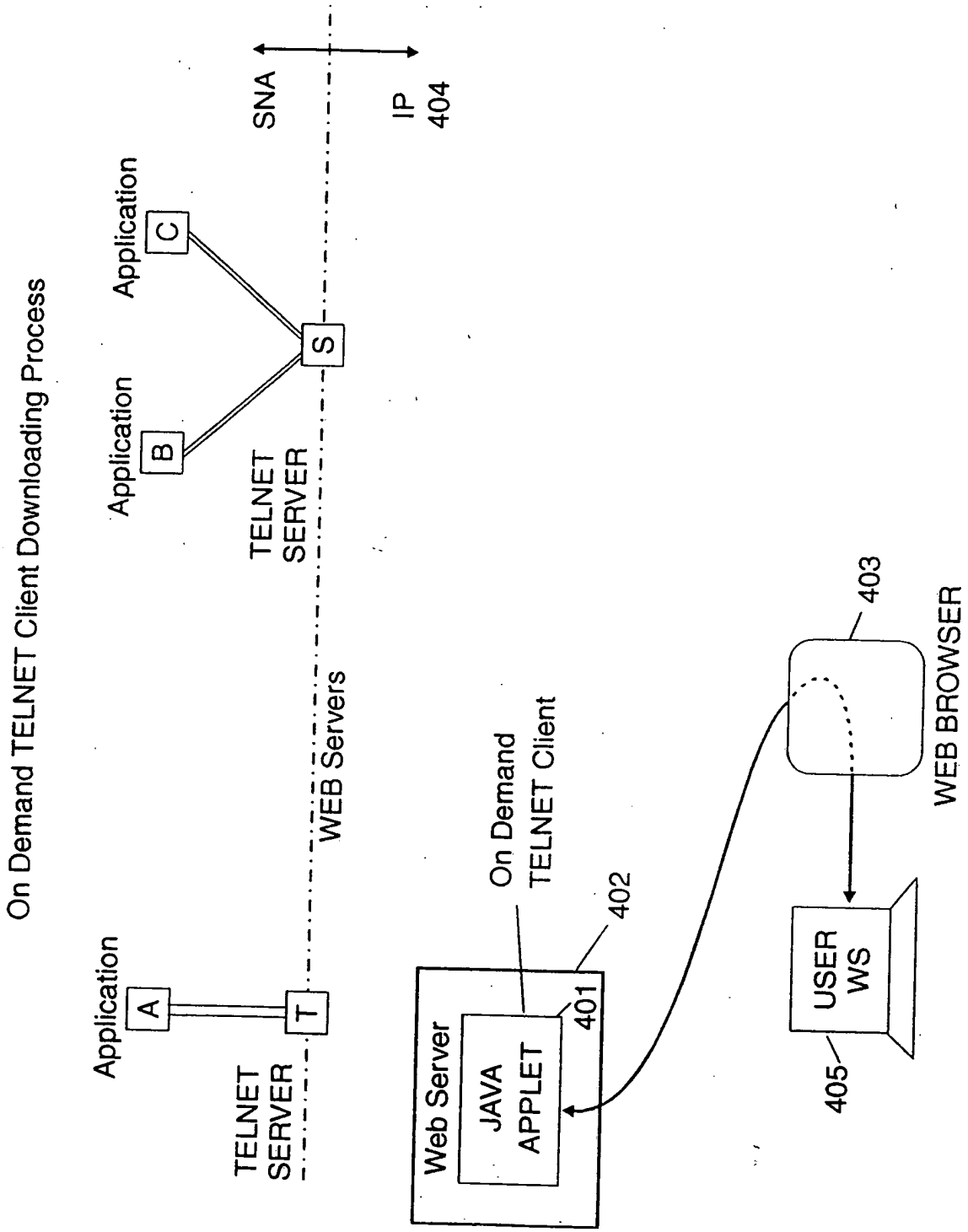

FIG. 4